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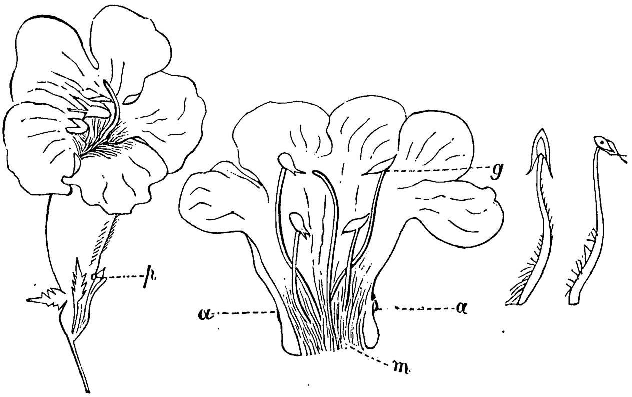
In one pond, or cluster of plants, I find the longer stamens about half the length of the style and twice the length of the shorter ones. In another the style is very short, not more than one-third the length of the shorter stamens, which, in turn, are about one-third as long as the longer ones.

But the root is, perhaps, more curious than the flowers, being very thick, sinuous and knobby, living and growing many years, hard and woody, the bark turning black when cut.— C. W.

Calycera balsamatifolia.— The curious waif of ballast ground near Philadelphia, was determined by the discoverer himself, not by Dr. Leffman, as the latter informs us, at whose request we make the correction of the statement in the Naturalist for October.

Perforation of Gerardia by Bees (see p. 689).—We unfortunately omitted to insert the cut illustrating Mr. Bailey's article on p. 689. The accompanying figure (180) shows the flower as in nature with the point of perforation (*p*) ; also with the corolla spread open, *a*, aperture ; *g*, guiding lines ; and a front and side view of a stamen.— Eds.

Fig. 180.



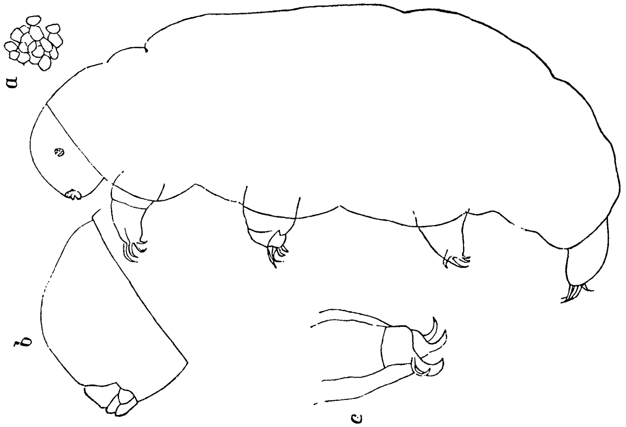
Gerardia perforated by bees.

ZOOLOGY.

Discovery of a Tardigrade.— We are not aware that there is any published notice of the occurrence of tardigrades in this country though undoubtedly microscopists have observed them.

We received early in March of this year several specimens of Macrobiotus from Rev. W. R. Cross of New Gloucester, Maine, collected last autumn in water in which moss was growing. It is white, $\frac{14}{1000}$ inch long, and has minute eyes composed of about ten irregular facets. There is a distinct under and upper lip to the mouth, and a pair of tubercles (palpi?). It apparently differs from *Macrobiotus Oberhauseri* Doyère (Annales des Sciences Naturelles, Ser. 2., Tom. 13., 1840), to which it is closely allied in form, by the claws being shorter and much more curved. It may be called *Macrobiotus Americanus* (Fig. 181 *a*, eyes; *b*, mouth; *c*, claws). We have also received drawings of another species of the same genus from Prof. C. E. Bessey, of Ames, Iowa. He writes us, May 6th, that it was "found in water containing fresh-water algæ, such as diatoms, desmids, etc." It is a longer, slenderer species than *M. Americanus*, and with apparently longer and straighter claws.—A. S. PACKARD, Jr.

Fig. 181.



Macrobiotus Americanus.

DISCOVERY OF THE BASAL JOINT OF LEGS OF TRILOBITES.—I have secured the fine collection of Trenton fossils of Mr. E. D. Walcott of Trenton Falls. It is particularly rich in Trilobites. Among the most interesting specimens, Mr. W. called my attention to one which he was confident would settle the question of the presence or absence of legs in Trilobites. And truly there can be no doubt left upon this point. The basal articulation of eight pairs of legs is distinctly seen on one side of two specimens of *Asaphus gigas*, in the same position upon the eight thoracic rings of the two specimens, and that position is strictly homological with the base of attachment of the limbs of Isopods. There is an impression for a ninth pair of legs on the inner surface of the posterior angle of the cheek.

This discovery shows more fully than is generally admitted, that trilobites are a synthetic type. At the same time it shows that the tendency is towards the Isopods.—L. AGASSIZ.

ANCON OR OTTER SHEEP.—Professor Huxley, in an article on the "Origin of Species" (Lay Sermons, pp. 254–298), makes mention of the otter sheep which originated on the farm of Seth Wright, near Charles River, Mass.

They appear to have been noticed by David Humphreys, F.R.S., and a skeleton of one was sent to Sir Joseph Banks in 1813. Huxley says Humphreys found it difficult to obtain a specimen at that date, and further says he "believes that for many years no remnant" of the breed "has existed in the United States." In this latter statement, quite fortunately, Prof. Huxley is mistaken. Otter sheep were raised till within a few years on the farm of Hon. William Hale of Barrington, N. H. Mr. Hale has now ceased to raise them, but his son, Hon. Thomas W. Hale, tells me that he saw a flock a few weeks since on the farm of Joshua R. Chesley of Barrington, N. H. He thinks that possibly they may be found in Chichester, N. H., as some were sold from the home flock a few years since to be taken to that town. Now here is a trail that some of our naturalists should follow out. If the otter sheep were of sufficient importance to science for Humphreys sixty years ago to go to great pains to procure a skeleton to send to England, and if they afford important data on the subject of the origin of species, as with Huxley they seem to do, it is time they were reëxamined by competent authority, and skeletons secured for our own museums.

The Messrs. Hale have a fund of information respecting these sheep, for they raised them for a quarter of a century. They secured their flock as the original one of Green was obtained, by selecting from the offspring of an otter ram and common straight-legged sheep. This ram was purchased at Sligo, in Somersworth, N. H. Connection could doubtless be made thence with the Seth

Wright stock. The facts connected with the breeding of this flock are substantially the same as those given by Huxley in reference to the Seth Wright flock.

Mr. Hale, senior, thinks the progeny of an otter ram with ordinary sheep were oftener straight- than bow-legged. Mr. T. W. Hale says that he is *sure* there were never any reversions to long and straight legs when they were breeding pure otter; and a farm boy's recollection on such a matter is pretty trustworthy. The Hales think the otters were not quite as prolific as the ordinary kind. There were some things about reproduction that indicated a feebler constitution than that possessed by other varieties. I am not an anatomist and can give a description of these sheep only in general terms. They came well enough by the term "otter." We used to call them "creepers," their bodies were so close to the ground. Mrs. Hale says they were a race of cripples, and that is probably the best general designation they could have. Their legs were short and very much curved or bowed outward. The flexure of the knee joint of the fore leg instead of being longitudinal with the axis of the body was at quite a high angle from it. In other words this joint instead of being a knee became an elbow joint. So it appeared. The joints were enlarged, the gait slow and laborious. If the case of the otter sheep has any bearing on the subject of the origin of species it certainly shows that differentiation may take place by degradation as well as by elevation. If some competent anatomist will take this matter in hand the object of this article will be gained. —C. CAVERNO, *Amboy, Ill.*

CROWS AND RAVENS.—In the November number of the NATURALIST, Dr. Barrett, after alluding to the supposed distinct geographical range of the crow and raven, asks whether there is any antagonism between them, and whether they ever exist together. From the abundance of the crow over the eastern portions of the United States, and the almost entire absence of the raven over the same region, and its abundance further west, where the crow is commonly believed to be of rare occurrence, it has been supposed that the two species do not mingle, and that an antipathy exists between them. This impression was shared by myself until the present season, when over a region nearly five hundred miles in breadth, in the territories of Dakota and Montana, I found the ravens and the crows both frequent and breeding in the same forests, sometimes even within a few hundred yards of each other. Both species appear to occur together over a large portion of the region between the Missouri River and the Rocky Mountains, as Dr. Hayden speaks of both as "very abundant throughout the northwest,"* applying the same words to each. Along the Heart, Yellowstone and Musselshell rivers, the crow is much the more abundant of the two, but is more confined to the timber skirting the streams, where it may sometimes be met with in considerable flocks. The raven is more generally dispersed, and is as often met with far out on the barren treeless "divides" as elsewhere, seeming to delight even in the most desolate portions of the "bad lands."—J. A. ALLEN.

A NOTE PERSONAL.—Dr. Coues suggests, in the July NATURALIST, that there ought to have been some mention of "localities" in the Aiken-Holden list. Of course there ought, and there would have been, but for causes quite beyond control without a too long postponement of the publication of the paper. Both writers were nomadic, and all communication was interrupted. It would have been well, perhaps, to have stated the occasion of this omission in justice to Mr. Aiken. It was not necessary, however, for Mr. Holden, as his localities are given, with sufficient exactness, as in the immediate vicinity of Sherman. Dr. Coues thinks that mountain settlement "quite a long way from the 'Black Hills' as laid down on the maps." He may be right. Black Hills is about as vague a term as White-head, Long Island, etc. Nevertheless, when I was near Sherman five years ago, I was assured by the residents that I was in the very heart of the Black Hills. This, however, is not pertinent to the point. We know where Sherman is, and it does not matter whether the term is exactly right or not.—T. M. BREWER.

OCCURRENCE OF A DEEP SEA FLORIDAN CORAL NEAR CAPE COD.—Perhaps the most interesting discovery during the explorations of the deeper parts of the Gulf of Maine in the U. S. coast survey steamer "Bache" in September last, under the auspices of the U. S. Fish Commission, was that of a fragment of *Deltocyathus Agassizii* Pourtales. This occurred about twenty miles east of

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* Trans. Am. Phil. Soc., Vol. xii, pp. 170, 171.

Cape Cod in 144 fathoms, soft mud, the temperature of the bottom being 39.°

This is a shallow, cup-shaped, small coral, remotely allied to Caryophyllia, and has heretofore only occurred in from 60 to 130 fathoms off the southern extremity of Florida, where it was dredged by Count Pourtales, to whom I am indebted for the identification. It will be remembered that Mr. Whiteaves dredged a species of Flabellum in the deeper parts of the Gulf of St. Lawrence summer before last. — A. S. PACKARD, JR.

THE MISSOURI SKYLARK.—In the November number of the NATURALIST Dr. Coues speaks of having met, the past season, with great numbers of the Missouri skylark (*Neocorys Spraguei*) on the prairies of the northern border of Dakota, referring to it, indeed, as one of the commonest species observed there. It seems, in fact, to be a common species over a wide area, as I had the pleasure of meeting with it myself, the past summer, from the Missouri River, near Fort Rice, to the Yellowstone, over much of which region it was quite abundant. It being a migratory species, leaving the plains of the Upper Missouri by the end of September, it seems stranger than ever before that a bird so numerous should have so long escaped observation, and that its winter quarters should still remain unknown.—J. A. ALLEN.

RANGE OF THE EARED GREBE. — Although this species (*Podiceps auritus* var. *Californicus*) is common along the Pacific coast of the United States in winter, it has not hitherto, to my knowledge, been found east of the Rocky Mountains in the United States, nor been known to breed anywhere within our limits. In July of this year I took several specimens in perfect plumage, at Turtle Mountain, lat. 49°, long. about 100° 30′, under circumstances which left no doubt of their breeding at this point. They were found on some of the numerous ponds about the foot of the mountain, in company with the common horned grebe (*P. cornutus*), the ruddy and various other ducks, all of which had young at the time.— ELLIOTT COUES.

SNOW BIRD.—Mr. W. H. Edwards writes us that in 1842 Mr. D. W. Marsh and himself found the nest and eggs of this bird on the summit of Graylock Mountain, and that he still has two of the nests collected at that time.

Influence of Locality upon the Colors of Birds and Animals.—Not being an ornithologist, I am unable to form an opinion as to the details of the observations given by Prof. Baird, Dr. Coues, J. A. Allen, R. Ridgway and others, in reference to the colors of our American birds. But the laws of variation so far proposed are obviously provisional only. Perhaps, therefore, another suggestion in the same direction may be allowed.

While in Egypt, in the winter of 1858–9, I was struck with the predominant *dulness* of hue of the birds and animals, wild and domestic. Of the latter, the cattle and buffaloes were nearly mud-colored; so were the sheep, and, preëminently, the numerous and miserable dogs. Nothing striking appeared in the aspect of the horses (sometimes white, mostly brown), or the more commonly used donkeys. The camel is always (in Egypt at least) a dull-colored animal.

But among the birds, myriads of which were seen by us on the Nile, between Cairo and Thebes, it can hardly have been an accident that in two months, I saw not one *bright color* of any kind. White is beautifully conspicuous in the ibis, which glistens in the sun as it flies; and a grayish white is usual with the very abundant, half-domestic pigeons. But the only other hues seen were gray, brown, dull yellow and (least often) black; in land birds as well as in ducks, geese, cormorants, pelicans, etc.

It is very probable that my scrutiny may have been quite incomplete, during the two months mentioned. It is, of course, possible also, that the summer fauna of Egypt may be entirely different, especially in its birds; although (as every one knows) the temperature is rarely as low as 40° or even 50° F. in the Egyptian winter, so far north as Cairo. Yet I cannot but think that a strong contrast must exist between that region (and probably Africa farther south, also) and South America, as well as the Indian peninsulas and archipelagoes, with their brilliant humming-birds, trogons and others of the West, and pheasants, birds of paradise, etc., of the Eastern Indies. With a still more restricted observation of them, I imagined, at least, a similar comparative rarity of brilliant hues among the insects of Egypt.

Towards the possible explanation of this peculiarity (if it be admitted) one suggestion, perhaps vague, has occurred to me; the question of the novelty of which concerns me less than that of its soundness. There is certainly nothing in the climate of any part of Africa comparable to what is referred to in Prof. Baird's account (mentioned by Mr. R. Ridgway in AMERICAN NATURALIST, Sept., 1873) of the influence of the local circumstances, causing, in birds of the interior of western North America, "a bleached or weather-beaten appearance, possibly the result of greater exposure to the elements, and less protection by dense forests." Egypt has truly no forests; only thin groves of palms, doum trees, acacias, etc. Exposure to light is a characteristic of the country. But, apart from natural selection, or, indeed, it may be possibly *through* natural selection (in part at least),—is there not a proportion between chromatic variety of development and the *complication* of natural features of the country: *i. e.*, does not the most arid, least undulating, physically most monotonous region or continent present, with slender-leafed plants and non-umbrageous trees, the *minimum* of coloration of birds, reptiles and insects,—probably also of flowers? If this idea be trite, instead of novel, my apology for bringing it forward must be my failure to discern it precisely set forth in the papers of Dr. E. Coues, J. A. Allen and R. Ridgway, who appear to be conversant with what has been written upon the subject. Although Dr. Coues, for instance, distinctly states that "the maximum of brilliancy of color is reached in the tropics," its intensity varying "in direct ratio with the *temperature* and *humidity* of the breeding place," yet the *direct* influence of heat and moisture alone would seem to be here contemplated: while the manner of that influence remains yet to be explained. At all events I shall be glad if the mention of my brief observations on the poverty of coloration in the Egyptian winter fauna call out a statement upon the subject from some competent zoologist or ornithologist, both as to the facts and their theoretic explanation.—H. HARTSHORNE.

MIMICRY IN SNAKES. — A friend recently brought me from Florida a fine specimen of the banded water-snake (*Tropidonotus fasciatus*) which had been given him by a negro as one of the dreaded moccasons (*Ancistrodon piscivorus*). The resemblance was so perfect that I did not detect the error until I examined the head. I have since examined the specimens of this species in the Smithsonian collection and find that in many individuals the coloration imitates that of the moccason to perfection. It would seem that the species are not distinguished by the Florida people.

Is not this a fair case of protective mimicry?—G. Brown Goode, *Museum, Wesleyan University.*

Notice of a Rare Bird.—LeConte's bunting (*Coturniculus LeContei*) long remained among our special desiderata. It was one of several species discovered by Audubon in 1843, on his memorable trip to the upper Missouri, the chief results of which were published in the appendix to the seventh volume of the "Birds of America." His type specimen, presented to Prof. Baird many years ago, having been lost or mislaid, as stated in Prof. Baird's work, the species rested upon the figure and description alone, until recently, when a specimen was received at the Smithsonian Institution from Texas, through Mr. G. E. Lincecum. This one was noticed in my late work (Key N. Am. Birds, p. 137). During the past summer I found the bird to be not uncommon at a certain point on the 49th parallel, between Turtle mountain and Mouse river, Dakota, where several specimens were secured. These represent the old and young of both sexes, and are particularly interesting on account of their showing that we have hitherto misapprehended the characters of the species. For Audubon's account, with which the Texas specimen agrees, indicates the extensively buffy, diffusely marked, soft plumage of the *young*, from which the adult differs materially. Some points of the case may be here presented. In form, the species differs notably from its congeners in the shape and greater relative length of the tail. This member is rather over two inches long, decidedly exceeding the wings, reaching considerably beyond the outstretched feet, and remarkably graduated, the lateral feathers being from $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch shorter than the central pair. The tail feathers are all extremely narrow and acuminate—even more so than those of the sharp-tailed finch, *Ammodromus caudacutus.* The wings are very short and much rounded; when closed the primaries hardly exceed the longest secondary by $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, although the secondaries are not at all elongated. The bill is not so turgid as in *C. passerinus;* the younger birds have it smaller than it is in that species, as noted in the "Key;" the difference is not so great in the adults. Specimens measure from 4·90 to 5·10 in length, by 6·90 to 7·10 in extent; the wing 1·90 to 2·00, the tail 2·00 to 2·25. The general buffiness varies greatly in intensity and extent with age and wear of the plumage; it is greatest in birds of the year; an old male, moulting, shows scarcely any. There is no yellow on the edge of the wing, nor a definite yellow loral spot, as in *C. passerinus*; there are no blackish maxillary or pectoral streaks as in *C. Henslowii*, the markings of the under parts of the adult being confined to sparse, sharp, blackish touches along the sides. In the younger birds, however, these may usually be traced across the breast, as is also the case with the young of *C. passerinus*, the adult of which is not, or not noticeably, marked below. But even the youngest specimen shows no maxillary streaks. There are some peculiarities in the shade and pattern of the variegation of the upper part; the markings of the adult being bold, sharply contrasted and heavily colored. The bill of the old bird is dark horn blue, lighter blue below; that of the young is reddish-brown, paler below. Feet flesh-colored at all ages.

I only noticed the birds on one occasion, August 9th, when a number were found together, in the deep green sea of waving grass that rolled over an extensive moist depression of the prairie. Five specimens were secured, in the course of an hour, not without difficulty; for, the grass being waist-high, the only chance was a snap shot as the birds, started at random, flitted in sight for a few seconds; while it was quite as hard to find them when killed. Several seen to fall were not recovered after diligent search. In their mode of flight, the birds resembled wrens; a simile which suggested itself to me at the time was that of a bee returning home laden with pollen; they flew straight, steadily and fast enough, but rather feebly, as if heavily freighted for their very short wings. The only note I heard was a chirring like the noise of a grasshopper. Although I found no nest, the circumstances of observation leave no doubt that the birds bred here. They were in company with a number of short-billed marsh-wrens; their neighbors of the drier prairie around were chestnut-collared buntings, Baird's buntings and Sprague's skylarks, all very numerous.— ELLIOTT COUES.

INSECT GALLS.—Mr. Riley is paying especial attention to galls and their architects. He has accumulated a vast amount of material, including all the described North American forms, with a view of soon publishing an illustrated work on the subject. He will be glad to receive assistance in the way of notes and specimens from the United States and Canada, and will take pleasure in properly acknowledging the same. Address Mr. C. V. Riley, St. Louis, Mo.

THE OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER. — The olive-sided flycatcher (*Contopus borealis*), though usually considered as a very rare bird, is quite abundant in some parts of Lewis, Herkimer and Hamilton counties in northern New York, where it breeds.

It is never found where there are no coniferous trees, and among them seems to have a decided partiality for old hemlocks. On the 12th of June, 1873, while hunting on Tug hill (Lewis Co.), I heard a bird utter a peculiar short whistle in a swamp directly ahead of me. I recognized the note as one I had heard in Idaho, but could not at once recall the species; so, guided by its oft repeated note, I entered the swamp and soon had the pleasure of seeing a fine olive-sided flycatcher perched on a dead limb on the top of a large hemlock. I shot this specimen, which proved to be an adult male in splendid plumage; I also succeeded in obtaining the female near the same spot.

At Big Moose lake, in Brown's Tract, they were quite numerous, and there we obtained several specimens (in July). They all seemed to have the same habit of choosing a large hemlock tree with a few dead branches on top, and were sure to light on the uppermost twig. Their note, which is a short whistle, greatly resembles *O-wheo*, *O-wheo*, with the accent on the *whe*, and the voice falling at the last *o*. They sometimes repeat this note several times in succession, but generally not more than once or twice.

I was not so much surprised at finding this species breeding with us in Lewis Co., N. Y., because it is a very interesting locality for the ornithologist, and many rare northern birds are found there; but I must say I was surprised on September 10th, while hunting at Easthampton, Mass., at procuring a fine *Contopus borealis* in a small grove of pine trees within a mile of town. Since that date I have searched diligently for this bird in the same and similar localities about Easthampton, but as yet unsuccessfully. Has this species ever been obtained in Massachusetts before? — C. HARTE MERRIAM, JR.

ANOTHER MONSTER. — To the list given by me in the July number (page 435) must now be added a young cock, possessing a supernumerary wing, attached by ligaments to the ninth cervical vertebra, and hanging over upon the right side of the chest. It was brought to me by Mr. C. B. Martin, of Tiffin, Ohio.—B. G. WILDER.

RANGE OF THE GEOCOCCYX CALIFORNIANUS.—I am advised, by letter from my friend, Dr. A. Woodhull, of the army, of the occurrence of this species on the Arkansas river near Ft. Lyon, Colorado, a fact which carries the known range of the species considerably eastward. Excepting Mr. C. E. Aiken's recent quotation from the mountains of Colorado (Proc. Bost. Soc., xv, 206), the U. S. record has hitherto been only from Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California to the Sacramento valley. The bird appears to be rare in the locality, where my correspondent says only two or three were seen in the course of over two years. He says it is known as the "war bird" or "medicine bird," because prized by the Indians for its plumage, which is used to ornament their regalia of ceremony. —ELLIOTT COUES.

THE CARIBOU ON LAKE SUPERIOR.—During a recent visit (May 1873) to Isle Royale, Michigan (Lake Superior), interesting evidence of the former presence of the Caribou (*Rangifer Caribou* Aud. and Bach.), long extinct there, was brought to my observation. I have now in my possession two relics — the greater parts of the horns of this animal — which were picked up at different points on the island. The antlers are much decayed, one being a mere shell, and, beside, they had been gnawed by rodents. Such specimens, often of a great size, are frequently discovered of late at this isolated place.—HENRY GILLMAN, *Detroit*, *Michigan*.

CHIMNEY SWALLOW; CHANGE IN PLACE OF NESTING.—About June 15, 1871, a pair of chimney swallows (*Chætura pelasgia*) commenced building a nest in the barn in close proximity to the nests of the common barn swallow (*Hirundo horreorum*). The nest was finished by the 4th of July, and four eggs were laid. In 1872 there were two nests built in the barn, and this year two more were built, one of which I took down on July 8th and sent, with the four eggs which it contained, to the Peabody Academy of Science. The nest that I removed was replaced by a new one about the 20th of July. As this is a remarkable variation in the habits of the chimney swift, I send you this note with the nest. I shall watch for the appearance of the birds in the barn next year with interest. As they have now built in the barn for three years, it seems as if the birds were finding out that the chimneys were no longer suitable places for rearing their young.—J. H. Sears, *Beverly, Mass.*

GEOLOGY.

The Fossils of Colorado.—The explorations this year have been more than usually productive of interesting results. The "bad lands" of Colorado have been discovered to be a graveyard of a long past period, distinct from that of Wyoming, and to contain the osseous remains of a great population of beasts, of totally different species and even orders from those of the latter age and region. They resemble more nearly those of the White River, of Nebraska, but many have been obtained by Prof. Cope not known there or elsewhere. So far he has proven the existence of more than one hundred species, some represented by thousands of individuals. Of these at least seventy species are new to science. They range from the size of the mole to nearly that of the elephant; sixteen species only are reptiles.

Many forms of insectivorous animals related to the mole, and of very small size, have been procured. The delicacy and minuteness of these fossils are surprising.

Gnawing animals, or rodents, left numerous remains of eighteen species, some not larger than the domestic mouse. Some were the predecessors of the rabbits, others of squirrels and others of mice.

Of cloven-footed quadrupeds a great many species have been found. Some were nearly intermediate in structure between the deer and the hog; like the latter, they had no horns; they were about as large as sheep. Others were about the size of gray squirrels, being the smallest of this class of animals ever discovered. Several species of horses were living during the same period, as is proven by the bones and teeth which have been discovered.

Their relative, the rhinoceros, abounded in Colorado, in former days, seven species having been procured by Prof. Cope. One of the specimens is a perfect skull, with teeth complete and covered with the moss-like crystallization seen in the moss agate. But the most remarkable monsters of the past, whose existence has been disclosed by the present survey, are a series of horned species related to the rhinoceros, but possessing some features in which, according to Prof. Cope, they resembled the elephant. They